

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 05006 01 OF 02 251743Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EURE-00
DLOS-06 SAL-01 EB-08 FAA-00 DOTE-00 COME-00 /104 W
-----251846Z 106288 /53

P R 251729Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1978
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 05006

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, EEC, CY
SUBJECT: EC MEDITERRANEAN EXPERTS COMMITTEE DISCUSSION
OF GREEK-TURKISH ISSUES

1. IN PREPARATION FOR NEXT EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS'
MEETING, EC MEDITERRANEAN EXPERTS COMMITTEE MET MARCH 25.
CORMACK IN FCO SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT BRIEFED US
ON MEETING AS FOLLOWS:

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PAGE 02 LONDON 05006 01 OF 02 251743Z

2. CYPRUS. EXPERTS DID NOT COVER MUCH SUBSTANCE ON THIS
ISSUE, BUT SIMPLY TOOK NOTE OF THE FACT THAT IT LOOKED AS
IF THERE IS AT PRESENT SOME CHANCE OF REAL PROGRESS.
THEY AGREED THAT THE EC SHOULD STAND READY TO CONSIDER
TAKING AN INITIATIVE, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE USG OR AS
APPROPRIATE, IF THE TALKS RUN INTO TROUBLE.

3. TURKISH CYPRIOT FIR. THE EXPERTS DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM POSED BY THE NEW TURKISH CYPRIOT ADVISORY FIR FOR AIR TRAFFIC. THIS DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE BEFORE THE EC MEMBERS HAD HEARD OF THE REPORTS OF RECENT NEAR-COLLISIONS IN THE AREA (NICOSIA 830; LONDON 4953). IN IGNORANCE OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS, THE EXPERTS CONCLUDED THAT THE EC HAD DONE ALL IT COULD EXPECT TO DO, SINCE ON MARCH 18 THE BRITISH ON BEHALF OF THE EC HAD MADE A FIRM, LONG, TECHNICAL DEMARCHE TO THE TURKS AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS, AND THE SITUATION REGARDING AIR TRAFFIC DID NOT LOOK TOO BAD. THEREFORE, THE EXPERTS MERELY AGREED THAT, WHILE TAKING NO FURTHER DIPLOMATIC ACTION, THEY WOULD ASK THEIR CIVIL AVIATION EXPERTS TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER AND ASSESS THE INCREASED DEGREE OF RISK OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS WITH A VIEW TO HAVING A FUTURE MEETING OF THE MEDITERRANEAN EXPERTS. CONSIDER WHETHER THERE IS NEED FOR MORE ACTION.

4. HOWEVER, CORMACK TOLD EMBOFF, IN VIEW OF THE REPORTS OF NEAR COLLISIONS THE FCO MAY HAVE TO PROPOSE THAT THE MATTER BE TAKEN UP AT THE EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS' MEETING ON MARCH 29. ACCORDINGLY, FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN WILL MEET WITH FCO OFFICIALS ON MARCH 28 TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO. CORMACK HAS THE IMPRESSION THAT THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS RATHER THAN THE GOTS ARE PRIMARILY TO BLAME FOR THIS IRRESPONSIBLE ACTION.

5. THE AEGEAN PROBLEM. THE EXPERTS REVIEWED THE INCREASED TENSION IN THE AEGEAN AND HELD A GENERAL DISCUSSION.

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PAGE 03 LONDON 05006 01 OF 02 251743Z

SION OF THE EFFECTS OF THE MILITARY, AIR, OR NAVAL EXERCISES WHICH THE GREEKS AND TURKS HAVE BEEN HOLDING SEPARATELY DURING THIS PAST WEEK. THE EC EXPERTS AGREED THAT THE SITUATION IS OBVIOUSLY DANGEROUS AND THERE IS A RISK OF ACCIDENTS, BUT NOTED THAT NEITHER SIDE

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PAGE 01 LONDON 05006 02 OF 02 290017Z

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USIA-06 NEA-10 IO-13 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00

DLOS-09 EB-08 FAA-00 DOTE-00 COME-00 /106 W

-----290022Z 016087 /61/53

P R 251729Z MAR 77 CORRECTED COPY FOR MISSING LINE IN PARA 5

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1979

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 05006

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 5 LINE 16 MISSING)

IS LOOKING FOR TROUBLE, THAT THE TURKS HAVE TOLD THE EC THAT THE SISMIL WILL NOT GO OUTSIDE TURKISH TERRITORIAL WATERS, AND THE GENERAL LEVEL OF TENSION IS COOLING. THE EXPERTS AGREED THAT THE NINE, ACTING INDIVIDUALLY IN BILATERAL CONTACTS, SHOULD ENCOURAGE BOTH SIDES TO "COOL IT". THE EXPERTS ALSO AGREED THAT ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS THE MEMBERS SHOULD INQUIRE MORE CLOSELY INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DISPUTE SO THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 LONDON 05006 02 OF 02 290017Z

REACH A CLOSER IDENTITY OF VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT AMONG THEMSELVES, AND BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE A COMMON POSITION COORDINATED TO THE SAME DEGREE AS THEY HAVE DONE ON THE CYPRUS DISPUTE. HOWEVER, THE EXPERTS DID NOT REPEAT NOT RECOMMEND THAT THE EC MEMBERS BECOME INVOLVED IN THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DISPUTE.

6. GREEK-TURKISH INTERCONTINENTAL SHELF. THE EXPERTS NOTED THAT AT THE LAST ROUND IN LONDON THE GREEKS AND TURKS AGREED TO MEET IN PARIS IN MARCH, BUT THAT IN FACT NO DATE FOR RESUMPTION HAS YET BEEN FIXED, WHICH DOES

NOT AUGUR WELL.

7. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF THE FCO MEETING ON THE TURKISH CYPRIOT FIR ON MARCH 28, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO ADD TO THE INSTRUCTIONS ON CYPRUS CONTAINED IN THE LATEST MESSAGE FOR THE PRESIDENCY (STATE 65276), AND GIVE EC ANY IDEAS ON WHAT NEXT STEP WE MIGHT TAKE WITH REGARD TO THE TURKISH CYPRIOT AIR SPACE PROBLEM.

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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